

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Public Safety Committee** was held on Monday, May 2, 2016 at the Brown County Sheriff's Office, 2684 Development Drive, Green Bay, WI

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**Present:** Supervisor Clancy, Supervisor Linssen, Supervisor Buckley, Supervisor Nicholson, Supervisor Zima  
**Also Present:** Director of Administration Chad Weininger, Supervisor Brusky, Supervisor Moynihan, Sheriff Gossage, District Attorney Dave Lasee, Chief Deputy Todd Delain, Clerk of Courts John Vander Leest, Doug Schneider

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**I. Call meeting to order.**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Buckley at 12:21 pm.

**II. Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Clancy, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**III. Election of Chair.**

Supervisor Nicholson nominated Supervisor Buckley for Chair. Buckley accepted this nomination. There were no other nominations.

**Motion made by Supervisor Linssen, seconded by Supervisor Buckley to close the nominations and cast unanimous ballot. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**IV. Election of Vice Chair.**

Supervisor Clancy nominated Supervisor Nicholson for Vice Chair. Nicholson accepted this nomination. There were no other nominations.

**Motion made by Supervisor Clancy, seconded by Supervisor Linssen to close the nominations and cast unanimous ballot. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**V. Set date and time for regular meetings.**

After a short discussion, it was decided to continue to hold Public Safety Committee meetings the first Wednesday of each month at 11:00 am.

**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to hold Public Safety Committee meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:00 am. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**VI. Approve/Modify Minutes of April 6, 2016.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Comments from the Public.** None

**Communications**

1. Communication from Supervisor Nicholson re: Requesting Judge Atkinson to review a court order seizure of a vehicle when there is a conviction of OWI/DWI and revoked license. *Held for one month for review by the District Attorney's office.*

Chair Buckley recalled that this communication was held from the last meeting to allow District Attorney Dave Lasee to gather information. District Attorney Dave Lasee said that his understanding is that seizure in an OWI is not allowed, but he will verify this and report back to the Committee at the next meeting. Nicholson asked why seizure is not allowed. Lasee responded that he did not believe State law authorizes it. Nicholson said there is a lot of publicity with regard to drunk driving and people are getting hurt and killed as a result of drunk driving. He is aware that the City and State are spending money on enforcement, which is great, but felt that there has to be other alternatives and it is time to think outside of the box to come up with other options. Nicholson felt the DA's Office and Sheriff's Department need more tools and felt that seizing vehicles would be one option. He realizes that the argument is that they could just get another vehicle but Nicholson's opinion was that there were numerous people who would not be able to get another vehicle and he felt that seizure would help society and help avoid some of the drunk driving. He continued that if the Sheriff and District Attorney thought this may be helpful the County should be lobbying for it at the State level.

Lasee said he will definitely look into this, but one of his concerns is the consistency in the ability to seize vehicles because many times people are operating someone else's vehicle so a determination would have to be made if the vehicle would be seized if it does not belong to the drunk driver. Lasee also said that there would be costs involved in seizing and storing vehicles. Sheriff Gossage added that the Sheriff's Department does a number of federal seizures through the Drug Task Force and it is a lengthy and prolonged process. He also noted that not all of the money received goes to law enforcement as per State Statute some of it has to go to a school fund. Gossage continued that specifics would have to be spelled out as to where seized vehicles would be stored because there is not room at the Sheriff's Department for this. Lasee added that an asset forfeiture action is different than a seizure. In asset forfeiture, there would be additional workload for the DA's office as well as additional costs. Lasee said that they typically only seize vehicles that are owned free and clear.

Nicholson said that the bottom line goal is keeping people safe and protecting citizens. He is trying to throw something out there that could do some good. Lasee responded that he will look at this further and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to hold for one month. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. Communication from Supervisor Clancy re: Request by the Town of Morrison for assistance in procuring a tornado warning siren.**

Supervisor Clancy said he recently attended a Towns meeting and was informed that the tornado siren at Morrison either rotted off or blew off and is no longer functioning. He would like to have Emergency Management get some prices as to what it would cost to fix the problem. He has contacted Emergency Management Director Melissa Spielman to look into this. He would like this done as soon as possible as the bad weather season is approaching. Buckley suggested that a special Public Safety meeting be held prior to the next County Board meeting to gather information from Emergency Management.

**Motion made by Supervisor Clancy, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to refer to Emergency Management. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. Communication by County Board Chair Moynihan re: Northern Building/Other Brown County Facilities.**

Chair Moynihan said the catalyst for this communication is that there have been a few County employees from the Northern Building who have reached out to him with regard to a series of incidents of unruly citizens within a few departments in the building.

*Supervisor Zima arrived at 12:32 pm*

Moynihan continued that as noted in his communication, there is hardly a day that goes by that there is not an incident of some sort of violence and he would like to have a dialogue as to opportunities in the Northern Building and other facilities of Brown County to ensure protection of both the employees and the citizens visiting County venues.

He continued that he has reached out to Sheriff Gossage to advise him of this communication and also shared some thoughts with him such as closing the Adams Street entrance of the Northern Building except for emergencies. Moynihan does not have the dates and times of when the situations he referred to above occurred, but they have been on different floors and in different departments. He realizes that courthouse security is available to come to the Northern Building when needed and noted that he wants to be proactive with this issue.

Buckley noted the communication refers to the Northern Building and other County facilities and asked what other buildings Moynihan was referring to. Moynihan responded that he would like to have an audit of all of the County buildings and noted that there is security at the Central Library. Buckley asked Gossage to provide a list of the security calls for the last year and said that maybe someone from the Sheriff's Department could do a walk through to audit the security of the buildings and then bring the results forward and go from there.

Gossage explained that currently employees of the Northern Building are able to contact courthouse security if there are issues and the response time is less than two minutes. He added that courthouse security recently responded to a situation in the Human Resources Department of a person who was emotionally disturbed and had subsequently been incarcerated for contempt of court. HR hit the panic button which shows up on the courthouse security monitors and security was there within 1 – 2 minutes. Gossage's concern, however, is that because of the overall layout of the buildings, he cannot provide or guarantee coverage of security or uniformed presence since the duties are to attend upon the court and that is where the courthouse personnel come from. He said that obviously in any type of emergency courthouse security will be in the Northern Building on the spot. Gossage continued that he did have a request from Erik Pritzl of Human Services to have an opportunity to run through the process of getting a uniformed response to Sophie Beaumont because he wanted the employees to see how fast someone can be there since they sometimes deal with emotionally charged people in their department. Gossage said that if there is an officer free in the downtown area he can have them do a walkthrough of the buildings. He said that they have done security studies in some of the departments and have also done personal safety training and active shooter training and they will continue to do that as it is requested.

Clancy asked about security cameras and Gossage responded that cameras in buildings rarely act as a deterrent and are used more for protocol after an incident occurs. Moynihan said that cameras would provide the ability for potential identification purposes.

Supervisor Zima said he did not think we can protect the whole world from anyone who might be a nut and it seems to him that the only thing to do is train employees on how to handle these situations. He said these incidents usually deal with mental health issues and he felt that you cannot protect against everything and therefore there was not anything to audit. Zima continued that if there is an area that has a great number of incidents and have a lot of people getting upset, employees working in those areas should be trained on what to do when they are dealing with someone who obviously has a mental health issue. He continued that we cannot lock down all of the buildings in America and have police at every front door. Moynihan noted that fifth floor of the Northern Building does not now have any public access and Zima said that he does not think that should be locked at all and the people up there are paranoid. Moynihan agreed with Zima in that you cannot legislate mindset, but what he is asking for is to take a look to see if any of the County facilities could be enhanced in any way from a security aspect. His concern is not only for the employees, but for other citizens who visit County facilities. Zima said it is not logical to think we can protect everyone from everyone. He does not have a problem referring this to the Sheriff's Department to try to find out what the problem areas are. Zima also noted that the Police Department is two blocks away and should be able to provide immediate response. In addition, Zima felt that the fifth floor of the Northern Building should be unlocked immediately. He said he has been here 40 years and no County departments were ever locked. He continued that we live in a free country and have to be as free as possible. He did not see the logic of an audit and felt that the appropriate way to handle this is to train the staff on how to deal with people who are upset about something. He did not want to see the County turn into a paranoid schizophrenic state and said we cannot live our lives with our liberties taken away.

Buckley said that an audit would provide information on security measures that could be followed such as figuring out if there are blind spots in any of the buildings that need to be monitored. Zima asked if Buckley is suggesting locking one of the doors at the Northern Building and Buckley responded that that cannot be determined without an audit. Zima said he would like more details on an audit before we panic.

Supervisor Linssen asked Gossage how much resources would be necessary to look into this and provide some sort of audit. Gossage responded that he did not feel the amount would be exorbitant depending upon what buildings would be audited. He does not know what direction the Board would want him to go; whether it includes all County buildings or just the Sophie Beaumont and Northern Building. Moynihan and Buckley both agreed that the Northern Building and Sophie Beaumont would be a good place to start and then take it from there. Gossage said he would also like to work with Facilities on this as there are probably some issues or concerns that they are governed with in the buildings.

Zima said he is offended by the idea of thinking about locking down the facilities because the County offices are not jail. Both Buckley and Moynihan said that nobody is talking about locking the facilities down. Buckley said it was open ended for the Sheriff to take a look at the buildings, but there was nothing said about locking the buildings down. Zima does not want any other thing done other than the Sheriff taking a look at the building and he also wants the fifth floor of the Northern Building unlocked immediately.

Nicholson asked why the fifth floor of the Northern Building is secured and who authorized it. Director of Administration Chad Weininger said that he authorized it and explained that the fifth floor is restricted because unlike other floors, there is not a single point of entry and further, it is not really a public space. He continued that there are notes in the elevator that direct people how to make contact with persons on the fifth floor. Employees from the fifth floor can come to the first floor and escort people up or meetings can be held in rooms on other floors. Weininger also noted that some employees on the fifth floor have seen people wandering around and sometimes worried for their safety while working at night. He continued that they do plan to do an active shooter drill in the Northern Building relatively soon in light of the recent incidents. Weininger also explained what security measures are in place to allow employees to notify law enforcement when needed.

Clancy recalled that this issue was brought up a number of years ago and bullet proof glass was installed in some of the areas that were deemed to be of concern. Zima responded that he does not have a problem adding bullet proof glass in other areas that may be of concern, but the idea of locking down the County leads to his point that we have to be a free society and not act so paranoid. To Zima's comment regarding adding bullet proof glass, Moynihan said that an audit would show things like where bullet proof glass should be added.

Clerk of Courts John Vander Leest noted that some of the population that his office deals with are unhappy and emotional and have issues but there is not bullet proof glass. He works closely with courthouse security and they will be doing some training in the near future for Clerk of Courts staff as well as the judicial staff to learn what to do if something should happen in the Clerk of Courts office or one of the courtrooms. Vander Leest acknowledged that those who interact with people who could be dangerous have to have appropriate training on how to handle serious situations.

Buckley felt the County should be proactive with regard to this issue, especially because it has been brought to their attention by employees. Gossage said he has an individual who teaches active shooter training which generally takes about an hour and can be done any time. Clancy added that he felt it was the County's obligation to be proactive on this for the sake of the employees.

**Motion made by Supervisor Clancy, seconded by Supervisor Linssen to have the Sheriff conduct a security audit and includes Jeff Oudeans and come back to the Committee once complete. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. Initial Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$7,135,000 General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds of Brown County, Wisconsin in one or more series at one or more times.**

Director of Administration Chad Weininger explained that this involves \$225,000 which represents the costs of technology service upgrades consisting of video surveillance system replacement at the jail and Huber center as well as associated debt issuance expenses.

Clancy asked if the improved cameras will be able to cover every area of the jail. Chief Deputy Todd Delain said that the cameras will be strategically placed but there may be some corners that the cameras cannot monitor, but overall, Delain was comfortable with the system and noted that it is definitely an upgrade and is much needed.

Weininger wished to note that the work for the courthouse dome is not included in this resolution as that project will be funded in a different manner in 2017.

**Motion made by Supervisor Zima, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to approve \$225,000. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. 2015 Balanced Budget Adjustment.**

Buckley pointed out that the Clerk of Courts has the lowest overage they have had in years and congratulated John Vander Leest for that.

**Motion made by Supervisor Zima, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**District Attorney**

**6. Budget Status Financial Report for March, 2016.**

District Attorney Dave Lasee reported that his office is on pace with the budget.

**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Public Safety Communications**

**7. Budget Status Financial Reports for January, February and March 2016.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Zima to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8. Budget Adjustment Request (#16-27): Any increase in expenses with an offsetting increase in revenue: Federal grant awarded to Hazmat Team for Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness/Hazmat Team Boom Deployment Training.**

This budget adjustment represents a federal grant awarded to the Brown County Emergency Management Hazmat Team for Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness/Hazmat Team Boom Deployment Training.

**Motion made by Supervisor Zima, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9. Director's Report.**

No Director's Report was given and therefore no action was taken.

**Medical Examiner**

**10. Budget Status Financial Report for April 2016.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Zima, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to receive and place on file Items 10 & 11. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**11. Medical Examiner 2016 Activity Spreadsheet.**

See action at Item 10 above.

**12. Resolution re: Reorganization of the Medical Examiner Table of Organization.**

Director of Administration Chad Weininger reported that this resolution is to formalize changes in the Medical Examiner's office. Under the resolution and in order to maintain a fluid workflow and adequately meet the demands

of the County Medical Examiner's office, they have requested to add a Lead Medicolegal Investigator/Office Manager position and a Deputy Lead Medicolegal Investigator position. The Lead Medicolegal Investigator/Office Manager will oversee the day to day operations in the office and will be the first point of contact to the Deputy Lead Medicolegal Investigator and other investigators who serve Brown, Door and Oconto Counties. The resolution would delete one full time Office Manager 1 position and add one full time Lead Medicolegal Investigator/Office Manager position and one full time Deputy Lead Medicolegal Investigator to the table of organization. Weininger noted that the change in table of organization does not require an appropriation from the general fund as the increase is within the 2016 Medical Examiner Investigator regular earning line item.

**Motion made by Supervisor Zima, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Sheriff**

**13. Budget Status Financial Report for March 2016.**

Sheriff Gossage indicated that the Sheriff's Department is on track and noted that expenses are at 24% of the budget and revenue is at 25% of the budget.

**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Linssen to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**14. Budget Adjustment Request (#16-26): Any increase in expenses with an offsetting increase in revenue: Increase Drug Task Force federal grant revenue to purchase surveillance equipment.**

This request is to increase Drug Task Force federal grant revenue for unspent but still available 2015 HIDTA grant funds and use those funds to purchase surveillance equipment for the Task Force. The unspent HIDTA grant funds remain available for use for a two year period.

**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Zima to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**15. Budget Adjustment Request (#16-33): Any increase in expenses with an offsetting increase in revenue: Increase overtime and fringe to reflect participation in a Seat Belt Enforcement grant from Wis. DOT BOTS Office.**

This request is to increase overtime and fringe benefits to reflect participation in the Seat Belt Enforcement grant from the Wis. DOT BOTS Office. This grant is direct to the Sheriff's Office and runs through September, 2016. Increased expenses are offset by grant revenue. This is a grant program that has been provided to the County in prior years. It was not included in the 2016 budget because the Wis. DOT did not offer it when the budget was created. There is no tax levy.

**Motion made by Supervisor Zima, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**16. Sheriff's Report.**

Sheriff Gossage reported that this week is National Corrections Officer Week. He said that the correctional officers are very diligent and do a great job of maintaining the integrity of the facility and he wanted to be sure they are thanked and recognized for their work as it is a difficult and very taxing job.

Gossage also said that there will be a PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) audit at the jail. All confinement facilities covered under PREA standards must be audited at least every three years to be considered compliant with PREA standards. A RFQ was sent out for this by Purchasing and after receiving quotes of \$11,000 and \$4,000, Jennifer Feicht of Pennsylvania was selected to do the audit at a cost of \$4,000.

Gossage thanked the Public Safety Committee and County Board for approving the budget adjustment for the jail lock system and indicated that implementation of the upgrade should begin in May and take about six months to complete as the upgrades will be done in phases throughout the facility. He noted that the current system is quite antiquated and he felt that money will be saved in the long run by doing the upgrades sooner rather than later.

Gossage continued that the jail is currently at 93% capacity and there are inmates sleeping on mattresses on the floor due to the classification of inmates. There is currently a large number of female inmates due to the recent meth bust which resulted in about 50 arrests. Gossage said a realistic discussion needs to be had regarding the jail capacity issues. His goal is to provide the Committee and Board with facts as to the jail population along with ways to try to lessen the jail population. He noted that crimes in the County are getting more serious and those serious offenders cannot be diverted out of the jail and back into the community on the EMP program for public safety reasons. Specifically, drug offenders, domestic violence offenders and ICAC offenders are not eligible for the EMP program. Gossage continued that the possibility of adding pods to the jail needs to be addressed and noted that currently the cost for three additional pods is estimated to be about \$22 million dollars, however that number will rise by about 5% annually. He continued that an additional three pods (one direct supervision and two indirect supervision) could house 180 additional inmates. Additional pods could be added onto the current facility which would save on infrastructure costs. Gossage said the jail is not at the critical state yet, but noted that there is typically an increase in inmates during the summer months. Every effort will be made to mitigate this issue, but Gossage wanted to be sure that the Committee and the Board are aware that this is something that will need to be looked at.

Linssen asked what percentage of inmates currently in the jail are actually serving sentences rather than being there on temporary holds waiting to go to court. Gossage responded that he did not have specific numbers with him, but he said that there is currently inordinate amount of probation holds but noted that they try to scrub the list as best they can. The biggest concern comes with inmates who are revoked and need to be in the jail while waiting to see an administrative law judge which could take months and comes at the expense of the taxpayers, but Gossage is trying to work with the judges to get these inmates into court sooner rather than later.

Zima asked what percentage of the jail inmates have relatively mild classifications and do not pose much of a threat to public safety. Gossage responded that it would be difficult to put a number to that, but noted that currently there are about 120 people out on the EMP program and those would be considered the low level, low risk offenders. Zima asked if building a less restrictive barracks type facility would be an option which could be used as somewhat of a reward for the best inmates.

Chief Deputy Todd Delain said he is working on some of the information Zima requested. He is working on a breakdown of sentenced inmates, inmates in presentence status and those in the jail on bond and probation holds. He noted that probation numbers fluctuate, but there are usually about 200 inmates on probation holds at any given time. Delain hopes to have numbers available for the next Public Safety meeting including the different classifications. Delain said one of the problems is that stays in the jail used to average about 45 days but now the average stay is closer to 175 days. He continued that he will be looking to see if there are additional people that can be put on the EMP program and will also be looking at the pre-sentence inmates in concert with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Board to see if an individual who has been locked up because they cannot make bond can be diverted somehow to reduce the jail population. This would only be for low level offenders who are good inmates.

Zima brought up the idea of a less expensive barracks type facility that inmates could be moved to from the jail that would be a little more liberal and run on a rewards system. He feels the County needs to come up with some creative ways to solve the jail problems and that a barracks type facility would be cheaper to build and cheaper to staff than additional pods. Gossage said he will have to check State standards to see what the possibilities are. He also noted that they looked at moving some of the jail inmates over to the Huber center but found they could not do that because the Huber center did not meet the necessary standards.

Linssen asked if there is a particular part of the jail that has more capacity issues than other parts and Gossage responded that currently the female inmate area is somewhat of a problem. Linssen asked if the County ever contracts with other counties to house prisoners and if that may be an option. Gossage responded that they have done that in the past and looked into it recently when the jail was bursting at the seams, but they ended up not having to ship inmates out.

Nicholson said his opinion is that crime is rising and the jail is being filled up with violent criminals. He questions where these criminals are coming from and asked Gossage if he had data on that. Nicholson wanted to know if these are people who were born and raised in Green Bay or if the more violent crimes are being committed by people coming into the area from different parts of the state. Gossage responded that at any given time there are between 45 – 60 foreign born nations in the jail. He continued that the lion's share of the inmates in the jail have Green Bay addresses so Gossage does not know where they were born and raised and that would be difficult to track. Nicholson suggested that the jail start asking people how long they have resided in Green Bay at the time they are booked and Gossage said that that would be possible, but he did not know how accurate the data received would be.

**Motion made by Supervisor Clancy, seconded by Supervisor Zima to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Clerk of Courts**

**17. Budget Status Financial Report for March 2016.**

Clerk of Courts John Vander Leest reported that the Clerk of Courts budget looks good so far. He noted that the tax intercepts came in good through April and collections are on track and, in addition, expenses are somewhat lower than last year.

**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Linssen to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Circuit Court, Commissioners, Probate**

**18. Budget Status Financial Reports for January, February and March 2016.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Clancy, seconded by Supervisor Linssen to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Emergency Management**

**19. Budget Status Financial Reports for January, February and March 2016.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Zima, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Other**

**20. Audit of bills.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Clancy, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to pay the bills. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**21. Such other matters as authorized by law. None.**

**22. Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Clancy, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to adjourn at 1:36 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Recording Secretary